

Request for Reconsideration:

Claims 1-13 currently are pending in the present application. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider the above-captioned patent application in view of the following remarks.

Remarks:

1. Claim Objections and Rejections.

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation that the Examiner indicates that claims 6 and 12 are allowed. Nevertheless, claims 1-3 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), as allegedly anticipated by Patent No. US 5,667,050 A to Hasegawa (“Hasegawa”). Further, claims 4-5, 7-11 and 13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as allegedly rendered obvious by Hasegawa, as applied to claims 1-3, in view of Patent No. US 6,578,687 B2 to Dau et al. (“Dau”). Applicants respectfully disagree.

2. Anticipation Rejections.

As noted above, claims 1-3 stand rejected as allegedly anticipated by Hasegawa. “A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference. . . . ‘The identical invention must be shown in as complete detail as is contained in the . . . claim.’” MPEP 2131 (citations omitted). The Office Action alleges that Hasegawa discloses each and every element of claims 1-3. Applicants respectfully disagree.

Claim 1 describes leaf springs that “each assume an orientation such that a boost force assisting an attractive force acting on the armature is produced based on the transmission force when the armature is attracted to the rotor.” The Office Action asserts that Hasegawa’s Fig. 3 discloses leaf springs that “each has inner and outer ends as viewed in a radial direction of the armature. The inner end is located more forward than the outer end, as viewed in a rotating direction of the armature, and is separated farther from the armature than the outer end.” Office Action, Page 6, Lines 8-11. The Office Action asserts that this disclosure of the orientation of leaf springs is a sufficient disclosure of a boost force. Nevertheless, Applicants maintain that Hasegawa discloses a boost force assisting an attractive force acting on the armature and that such a boost force is produced based on the transmission force.

The Office Action fails to point to anything in Hasegawa that describes a boost force produced based on a transmission force. Office Action, Page 3, Lines 1-2. Similarly, the Office Action fails to point to anything in Hasegawa that describes a boost force assisting an attractive force acting on the armature. Office Action, Page 2, Line 17, through Page 3, Line 1. As stated previously, Hasegawa describes attracting the armature “against a biasing force of the

leaf spring[.]” Hasegawa, Col. 3, Lines 9-12, and “against the spring force of the leaf spring[.]” Hasegawa, Col. 4 Line 67 - Col. 5 Line 1 (emphasis added). Hasegawa does not disclose producing a boost force to assist the attractive force acting on the armature, as described in claim 1.

Moreover, the Office Action contends that Hasegawa’s **Fig. 3** discloses an orientation in which the inner ends of the leaf springs are “located more forward than the outer end, as viewed in a rotating direction of the armature.” Office Action, Page 6, Lines 8-11. Hasegawa’s **Fig. 3**, however, as viewed in the rotating direction, *i.e.*, the clockwise direction, does not show the inner ends of the leaf springs located more forward than the outer ends. Further, the Office Action has not established that Hasegawa’s **Fig. 3** discloses rotating the armature in a counterclockwise direction without re-orienting the direction of the leaf springs. Nevertheless, in order to conclude that Hasegawa’s **Fig. 3** discloses “inner ends of the leaf springs located more forward than the outer ends,” the Office Action views Hasegawa’s **Fig. 3** as if it disclosed rotating the armature in the counterclockwise direction. “The drawings must be evaluated for what they reasonably disclose and suggest to one of ordinary skill in the art.” MPEP 2125. Hasegawa’s **Fig. 3** does not reasonably disclose or suggest viewing the rotating direction of the armature 24 in a counterclockwise direction, so that the inner end of leaf spring 21 would be located more forward than the outer end of leaf spring 21. Further, the mere disclosure of “orientation” is not a sufficient disclosure of an orientation that produces a boost force assisting an attractive force acting on the armature. The Office Action has failed to establish that Hasegawa produces a boost force assisting an attractive force acting on the armature. Accordingly, the Office Action fails to establish that the cited references disclose each and every element of claim 1 in as complete detail as described in the claim. For at least this reason, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner to withdraw the anticipation rejection of claim 1.

Claims 2 and 3 depend from claim 1, and, thus, include all of the limitations of allowable, independent claim 1. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner also withdraw the anticipation rejection of dependent claims 2 and 3.

3. Obviousness Rejections.

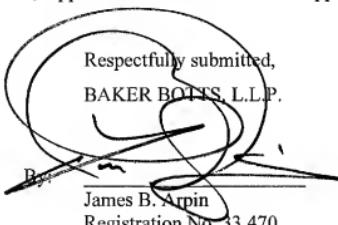
As noted above, the Office Action rejects claims 4-5, 7-11, and 13 as allegedly

rendered obvious by Hasegawa in view of Dau. Claims 4-5, 7-11, and 13 depend directly or indirectly from allowable, independent claim 1, and, thus, incorporate each and every limitation of claim 1. "If an independent claim is non-obvious under 35 U.S.C. 103, then any claim depending therefrom is non-obvious." MPEP 2143.03. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the obviousness rejection of claims 4-5, 7-11, and 13 at least for this reason.

Conclusion:

Applicants maintain that the above-captioned patent application, as amended, is in condition for allowance, and such disposition is earnestly solicited. If the Examiner believes that the prosecution of this application may be furthered by discussing the application, in person or by telephone, with Applicants' representative, Applicants would welcome the opportunity to do so.

Respectfully submitted,
BAKER BOTTS, L.L.P.


James B. Arpin
Registration No. 33,470

Date: November 4, 2008

BAKER BOTTS, L.L.P.
The Warner, Suite 1300
1299 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004-2400
Tel.: (202) 639-7700
Fax: (202) 639-7890

JBA/MYJ